

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 082460
Application No.: 10/506,424

REMARKS

Claims 15-20, 27 and 28 are pending in the present application. Claims 27 and 28 are newly added. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 21-26 have been cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Delangle** (J. Org. Chem., 1996, v. 61, pp. 8904-14) in view of **Alberts** (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 1979, v. 101, pp. 3545-53).

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants request consideration of arguments presented in the Amendment filed on September 25, 2008.

New Claims

Claim 27 recites that the aqueous solution containing a rare earth metal ion has a pH value of 7 or lower. Claim 28 recites that the volume ratio of the aqueous solution containing a rare earth metal ion to the organic solvent and phosphonamide compound is 0.001:1 to 100:1. Support for new claims 27 and 28 is in the specification at pages 18-19.

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In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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